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Education for all for learning to live together as the basis for a better and fairer world

Aware of:

- the challenges facing us in the 21st century - the century of knowledge and new information and communication technologies;
- the responsibilities to ensure sustainable development in the

global world;

- the negative effects stemming from the divisions and wars of the previous century;

today we all together opt for a new path to international dialogue, to open up and enhance prospects for living together in diversity

The Ministry of Education and Sports, responsible for educational policy in the Republic of Croatia, is committed to the joint efforts aimed at furthering the global educational policy of Education for All for Learning to Live Together.

Education is a key factor of development and is the basis for a better and fairer world in which an individual will be capable of making choices and assuming responsibility for these decisions and for the prosperity of the people.

Educational policy is undoubtedly the focus of Interest at global, European and national levels, both in the countries of developed democracies and in the countries in transition, which are trying to overcome the difficulties brought about by social change and which at the same time are attempting to improve and advance the standard of living of their citizens.

Therefore, our involvement and contribution to the global commitment for a common good and for a public freedom constitute a step toward the achievement of common goals and the implementation of ratified international documents.

The Republic of Croatia is on the path to reforming its educational system - in terms of structure and standards, curricula, methods and forms of work - in order to develop a system compatible with those of the developed democracies based on the principles of pluralism, co-existence, tolerance and democratic standards. The Republic of Croatia has developed, in co-operation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, the National Programme of Education for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship as a clear effort in favor of democratizing education, affirming differences and promoting tolerance, and developing a culture of peace and non-violence.

Another important contribution and an example of good practice is the programme of education in national minority languages and scripts, as a result of our efforts to create high standards for all national minorities present in the country.

Our priority and challenge is to restructure vocational training with the aim of contributing to social cohesion, reducing unemployment, and developing labor market and international competitiveness. This is an integral part of our action plan for the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union. In this process, a critical role will be played by young people, who have to have high quality education and training in order to participate in decision making processes and to assume responsibility for lifelong learning.

Access to knowledge through new technologies is a great challenge which has a high price for all countries. This is a challenge which Croatia also wants to address by putting as one of its priority development tasks the computerization of education.

In this context, a strategy aimed at understanding and communication cannot be developed without language learning, which helps to recognize different cultures, not only as component parts of the civilisational heritage of mankind. but also as the basis for the development of good co-operation in our common future. 2